Preserving History in the Summer of 2025

1. Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs
2. Strevell House Gutter Screens
3. New Googerty Room in Strevell House
4. Yost House Fish Tank Cover
5. Marsh Park in Fairbury
6. Veteran's Memorial Park – Fairbury
7. North Park – Fairbury
8. Jones House Porch Columns

"How I spent my summer"

Re-Purposing 1958 Children's Bed

- Can you save the cute puppy dog and turn into a children's bench for dolls?

Re-Purposing 1958 Children's Bed

- My Cousin was very happy with how this project turned out !!

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2025

- Tuck-point stacked rock foundation (took 8 weeks)
- Refurbished the Restroom

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2025

- Building built in 1894……..131 years old
- Stacked rock foundation
- After 131 years, mortar started turning to white dust and falling on the floor
- Rock were likely stacked into foundation 1st, then mortar applied to prevent water from entering basement
- Structurally probably still Ok, but looked bad

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2025

“Before” photo with pile of mortar on the floor that has fallen out of the rocks.

Old mortar pile several inches thick.

Some holes pretty deep with missing mortar where screwdriver is.

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2025

Mortar is repaired except
bottom LH corner not done yet.

Close-up of repaired mortar area

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2025

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2025

- Tuck pointing took ~8 weeks on part-time basis
- 28 bags with 80 Lbs each of Mortar = 2,240 Lbs Mortar !!
- Also removed multiple truck-loads of junk from basement
- Hopefully, foundation will last another 131 years

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2025

- We rent ½ of the Museum Building
- Rent covers cost of Utilities….
  …We “Break Even”
- Renter requested the bathroom be upgraded
  - Add ceiling exhaust fan
  - Increased lighting
  - Make room brighter by painting walls white
  - Replace wood ceiling with Suspended Ceiling

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2025

- Had to add 2 new Electrical Junction boxes for new Exhaust Fan and new LED ceiling light

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2025

New suspended ceiling with exhaust fan on far side and new 2 foot by 2 foot LED light on the near side. The new light with the white wall paint really brightens up the old bathroom !!!

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2025

- Was able to vent new Bathroom Exhaust Fan through the wall of the 131 year old building!

- The Climbing Ivy War ☺
  - Tried 1 gallon white vinegar, 2 cups salt, 2 cups dish soap
  - Did not work

- Won the War by dumping 80 lbs of rock salt on the ground ☺ ☺

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2025

- Bathroom Finished

- White walls versus Brown really brightened up the room

Largest Flower Garden in Fairbury

- My Sister – Karen Munz
- Has largest flower garden in Fairbury
- She has 2 City Lots of Flowers!
- This is the 3rd Trellis Bench I have built for her !

Largest Flower Garden in Fairbury

Gutter Screens on Strevell House

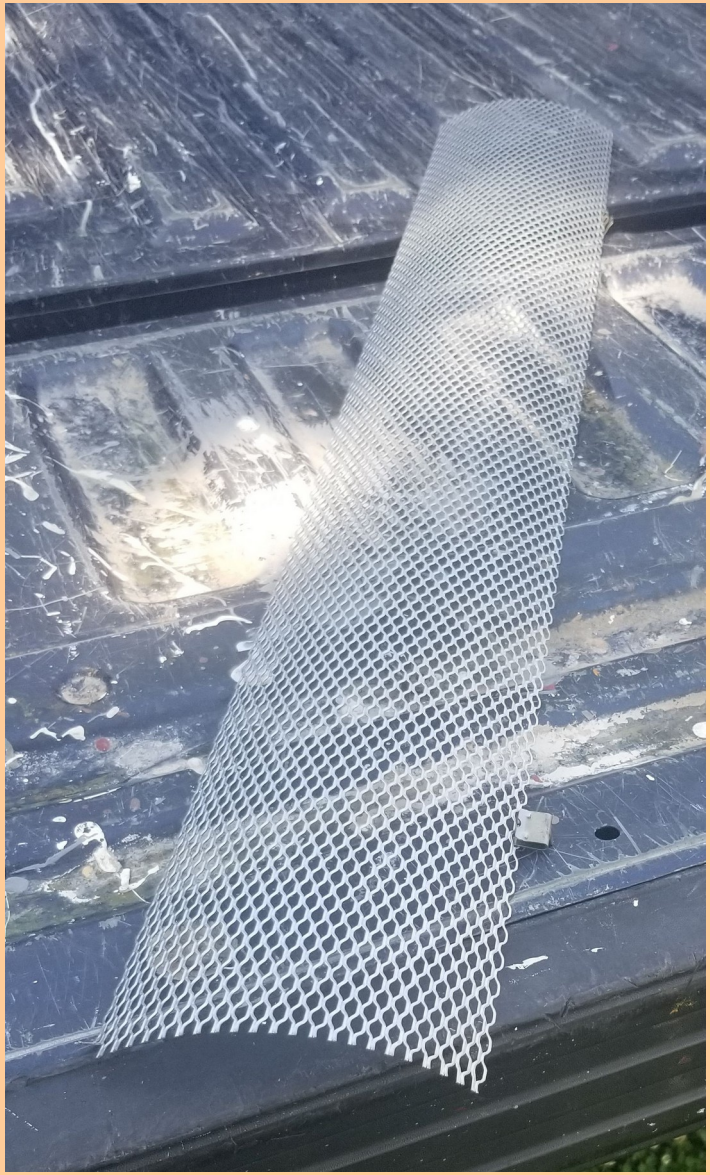
- **Good News:**
  - Installed new gutters during Summer of 2024

- **Bad News:**
  - Fall of 2024 Record Year for Maple Tree whirli-birds
  - The new gutters filled up with Maple seeds

Gutter Screens on Strevell House

- Gutter completely filled on east side of large conference room !

Gutter Screens on Strevell House



- Easy to install
- 2 clips per section fasten to outside of gutter
- Using fingers, bend in until one side fits down into the gutter
- Should keep out the Maple seeds
- Bought at RP Lumber - Pontiac

Gutter Screens on Strevell House

- Bought ladder extensions in 2024 to install the gutters
- Allow easy access to the gutters
- Do not mark or bend the gutters

Gutter Screens on Strevell House

- Screens installed on all gutters in June of 2025

Hope they work !!!!!!!!!!

Repaint Front Steps Verticals on Strevell House

Repaint Front Steps Verticals on Strevell House

Peeling paint scraped off front steps of Strevell House and ready to repaint on June 19, 2025

Repaint Front Steps Verticals on Strevell House

- June 2025
  - Each year, must spray brick sidewalks with weed killer to kill the weeds between the bricks

Mark Your Calendar

This coming Saturday, June 21, at 2 PM at the Dominy Library, Dale Maley will be telling the fascinating story of the Kickapoo Native Americans that lived in the Fairbury & Chatsworth areas in 1828-1832. You can also bring some of your stone artifacts and Roger Kutzner will identify them for you. Admission is free and we will have light refreshments.

Sponsored by the Fairbury Echoes Museum & the Livingston County Historical Society.

- Thanks to Roger Kutzner for helping to put on this presentation in Fairbury !

- Packed room on June 21, 2025

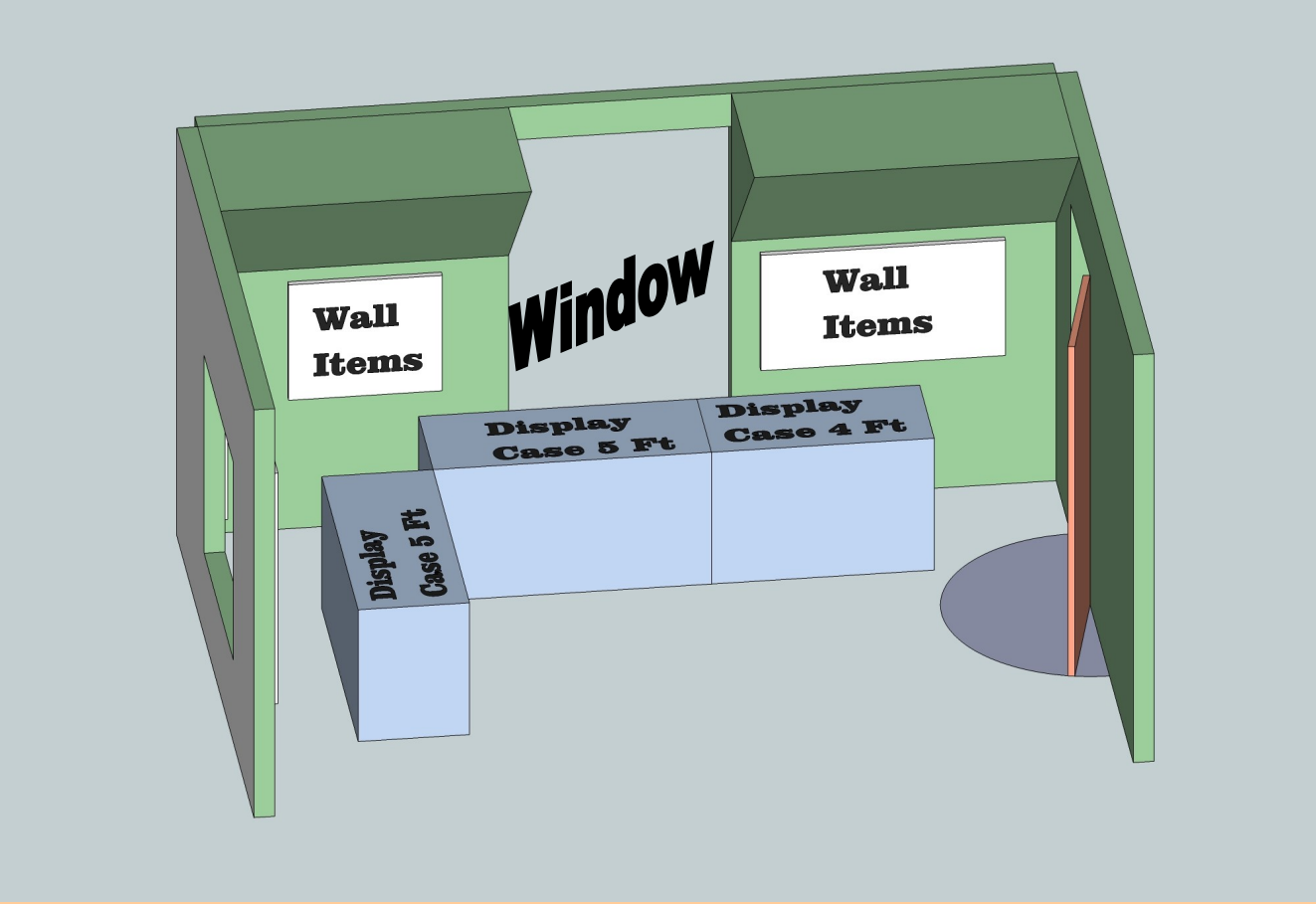
Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

- June 2025
  - Two people from Chicago had to remove everything in southeast bedroom
  - Left this table, chair, and lamp
  - Took the Chandelier [apparently it was theirs]
  - Installed new LED ceiling light

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

- **Board Meeting**
  - Need to fill this vacant room with something
  - Why not some local history like Pontiac Ornamental Iron Artist Thomas F. Googerty ??
  - Can consolidate Googerty items from Jones House to Strevell

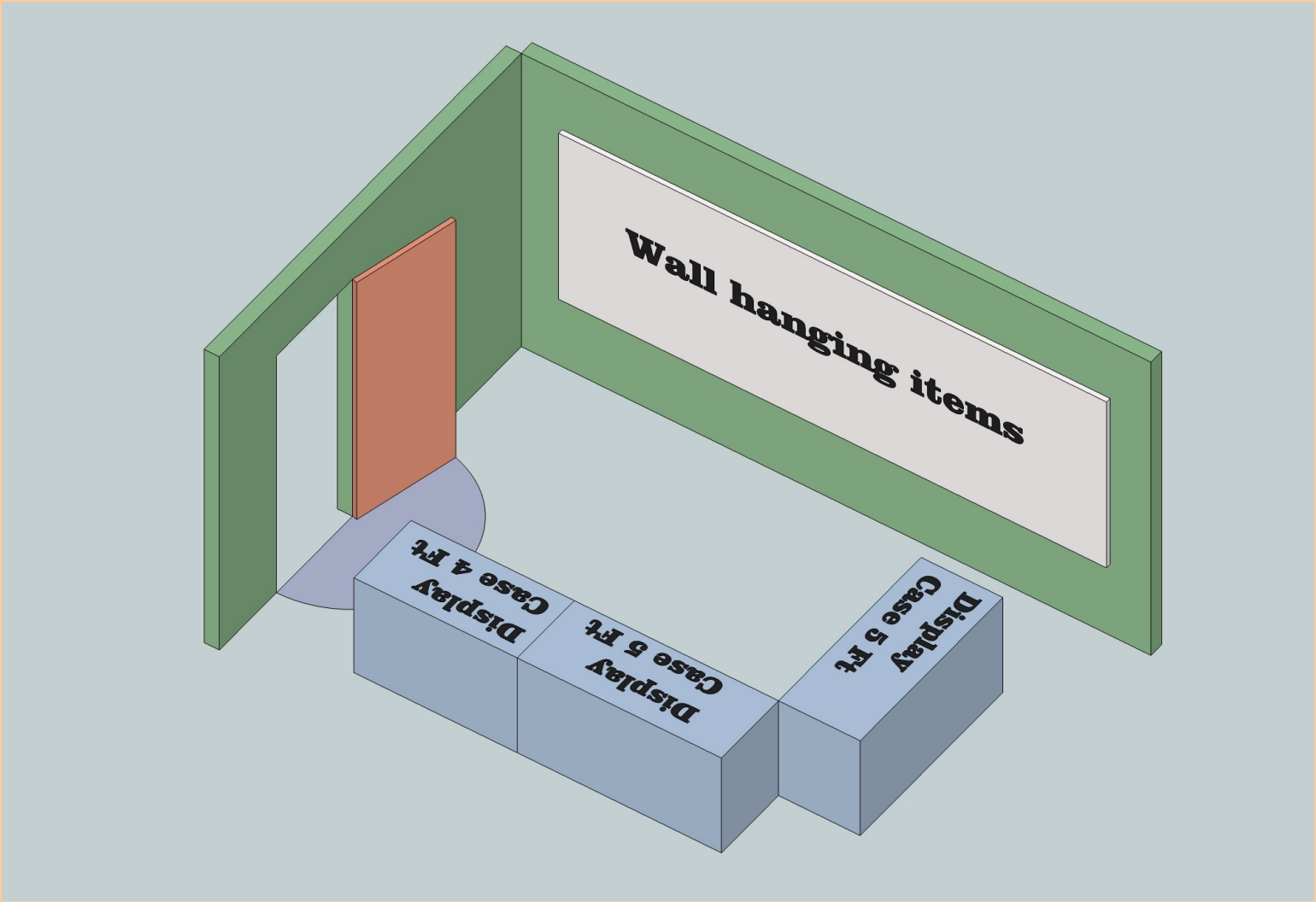
Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House



- Room Design
- Looking South
- Room for up to 3 Display cabinets

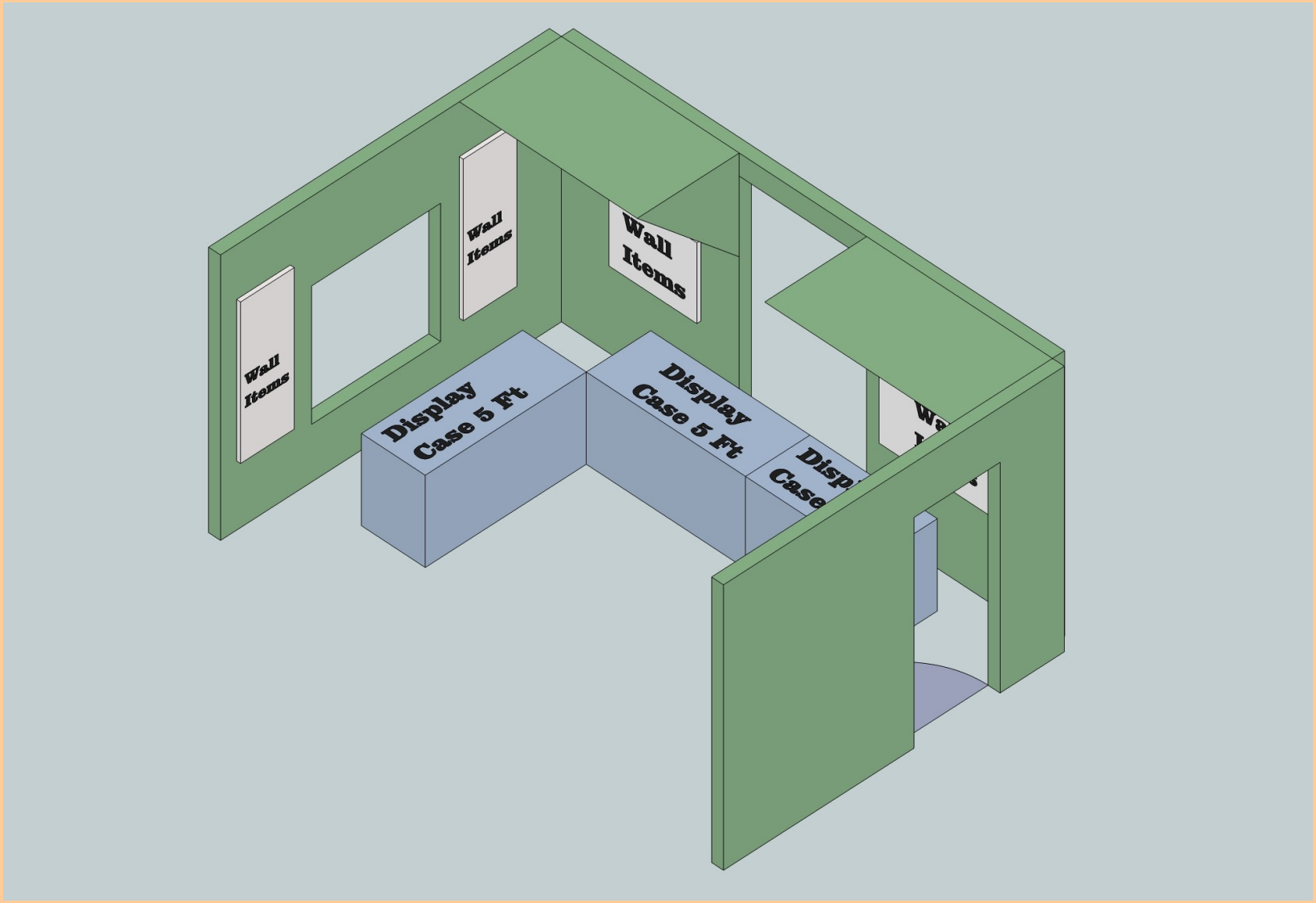
- My 1st time designing a Museum Display Room

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House



Looking northwest

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House



Looking Southeast

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

- Have 13 Googerty Related oil paintings to display

- Did Inventory of Googerty items in Jones House
  - Have very few Iron items made by him or his Boy's Reformatory students
    - 3D printing story [future Society presentation]
  - Some books
  - Only need 1 Display Cabinet, not 3 right now

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

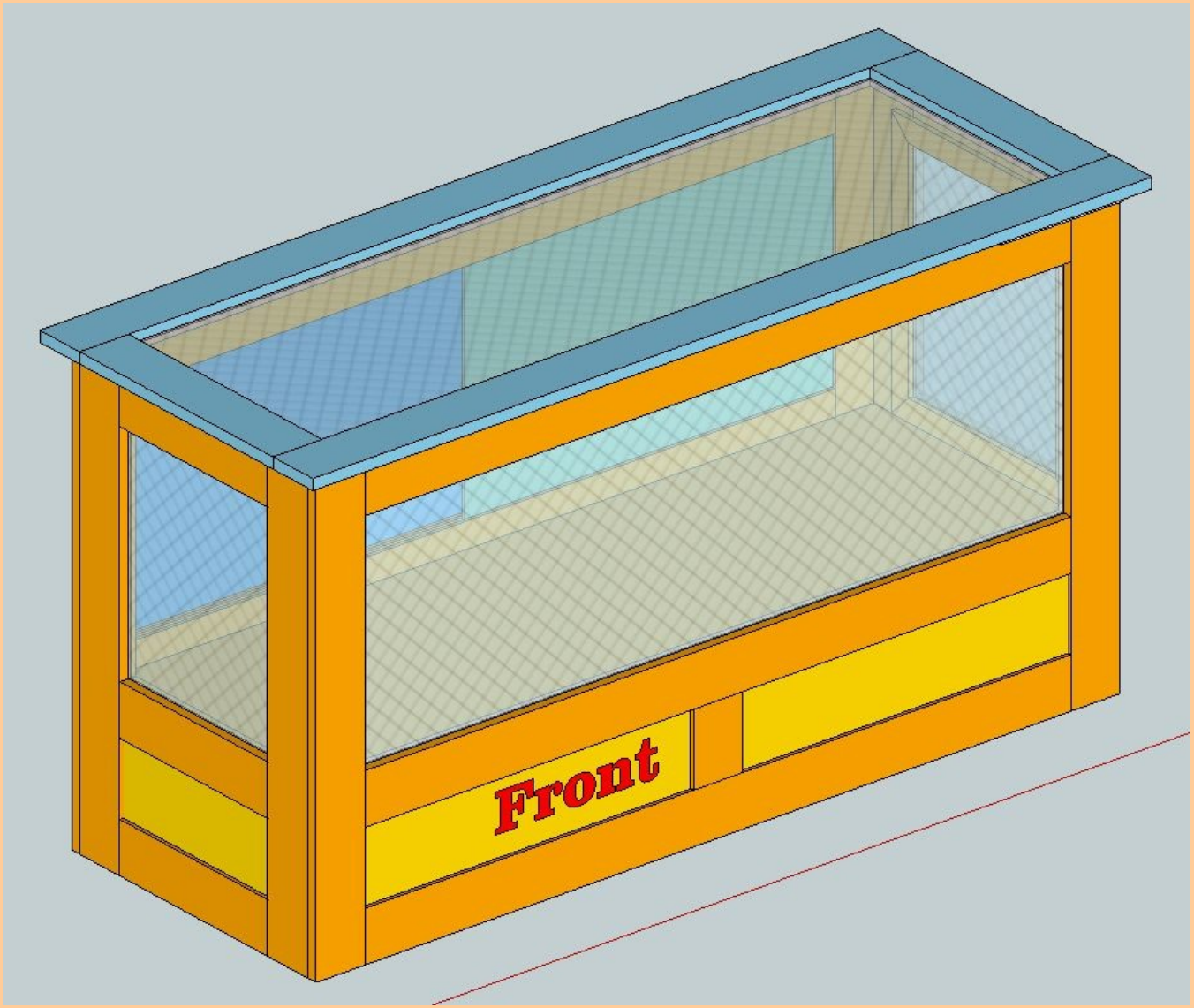
- Visited Jerry's Hat Museum in April 2025 in Forrest

- 30,000++ ball caps on ceilings and walls of old church

- He built his own display cabinets
  - -From simple 1x4 Pine
  - -Gave me Ok to photograph

- Modified Design for 1st Display Case for new Googerty Room

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House



- My version of Jerry's Hat Museum display cabinets
- Free drafting program Sketchup

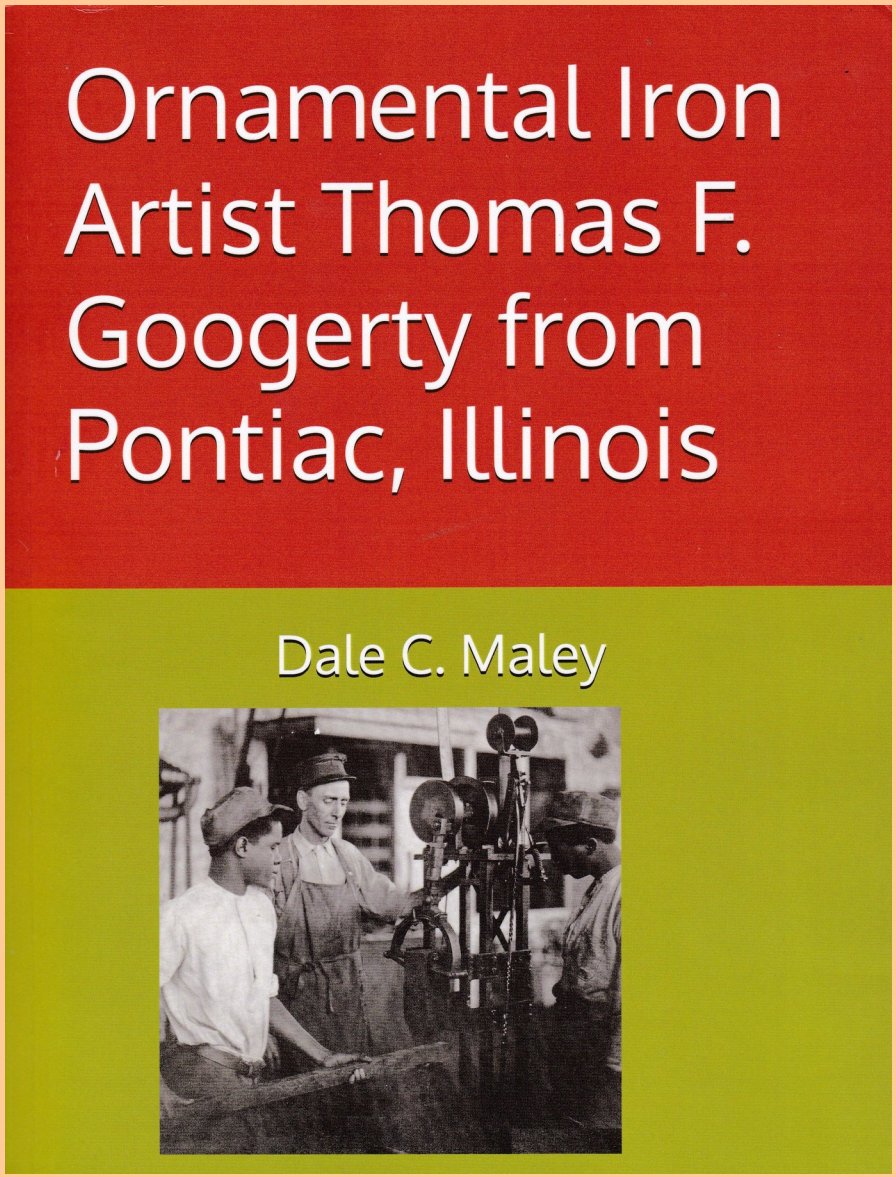
Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

- Starting to build 1st Googerty Display Case in Fairbury shop

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

- Kreg pocket screw construction
- Can dis-assemble in Fairbury and re-assemble on 2nd story of Strevell House
- Clear Acrylic panels vs. glass

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House



- Wrote new history book about life of Thomas F. Googerty
- Thanks go to Ron Baker for helping to review manuscript
- Printed copies available at Pontiac Library and can be bought at Strevell House, and Amazon.com

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

New Googerty Display Cabinet in Southeast Bedroom

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

Googerty fireplace screen on Jones House fireplace

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

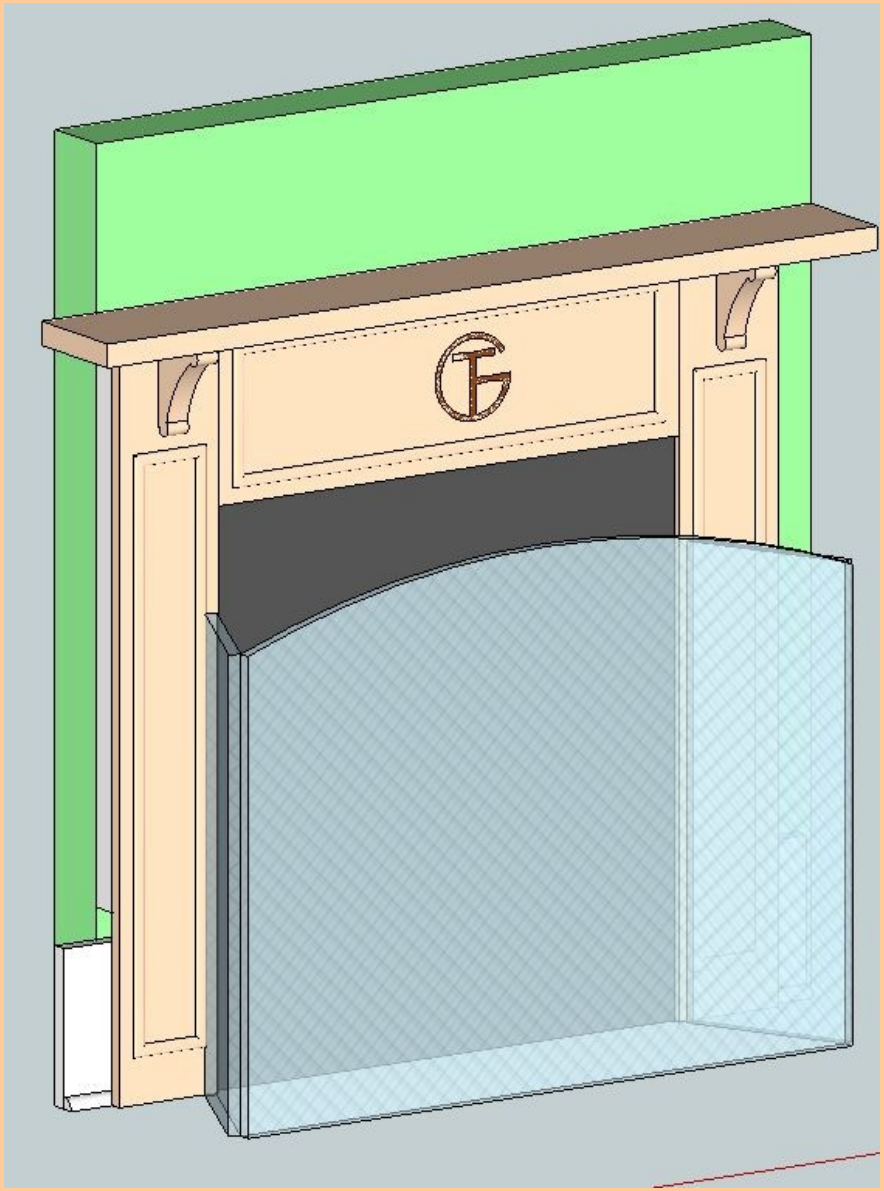
I like the 2 squirrels on each side eating their Nuts

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

- **Problem:**
  - No fireplace in new Googerty Room in Strevell House
  - Googerty fireplace screen would not look right without it installed on a fireplace????

- **Solution**
  - Build a “Mock Fireplace” for the Strevell House
  - Keep Design very simple, Circa 1854 like the house
  - Design so Googerty fireplace screen fits it Ok

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House



- Sketchup design
  - Incorporate Googerty's TG Logo he marked his iron items with
  - Use 45°board method to mount to wall for easy removal

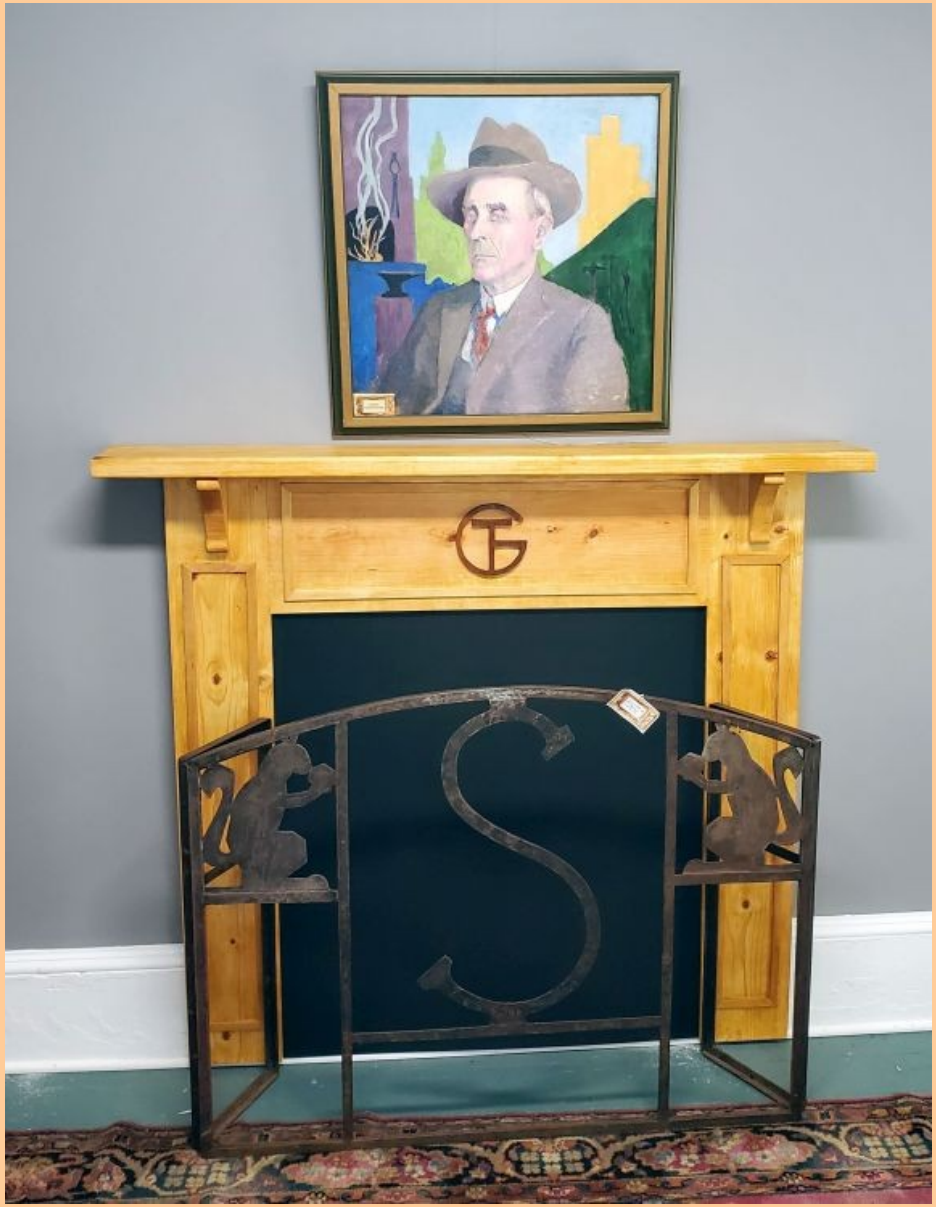
Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

In Fairbury workshop

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

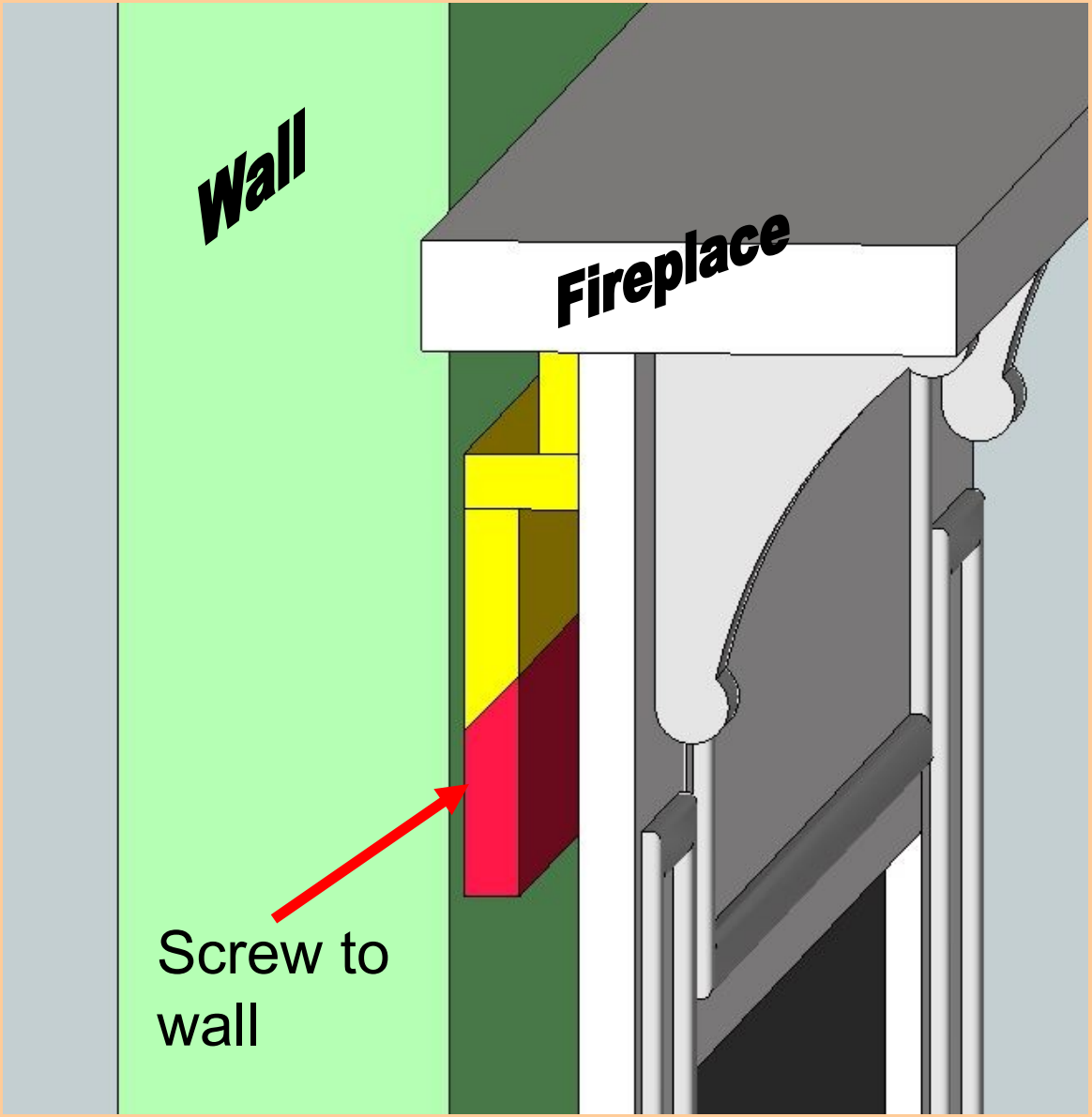
Logo in the center of the fireplace is the stamp mark that Googerty used to mark items he made.

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House



- Mock fireplace with Googerty fireplace screen
- Oil painting of Googerty by his friend Dr. Lockie

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House



- Mount Red Board to wall with 45° Angle
- Drop mock fireplace with its yellow 45° Angle
- Gravity holds it in place
- Mock Fireplace can be removed by lifting up

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

GalleryOne Pro Picture Hanging System Set - Covers 18 ft of Wall Space - Heavy Duty Discreet Picture Rails & Art Hanging Kit Without Nails - for Home or Office

Visit the Gallery System Art Displays Store

4.0 ★★★★☆ (30)

$275.00

- $15.28 per foot, but works extremely well
- Used in Strevell House main conference room
- Used in Dale Maley's Fairbury house for lighted Stained Glass

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

- How to safely transport 13 oil paintings 100 years old across Pontiac on a rainy day??

- Enclose each one in 30 gallon plastic bags

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

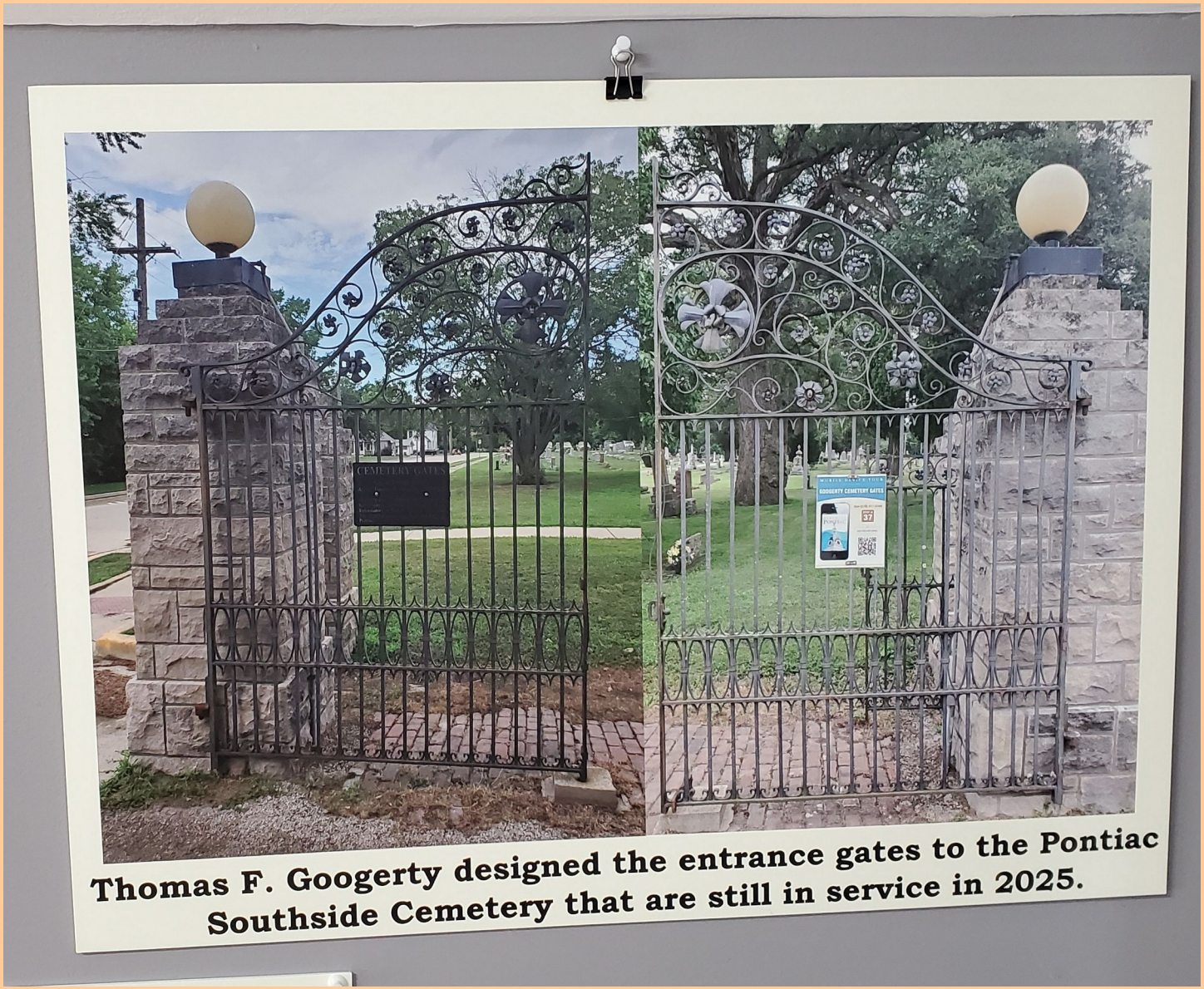
- How to Display Googerty made big iron gates
  - Pontiac Southside Cemetery
  - Pontiac Catholic Cemetery

- Protective iron grille on old Smith Jewelry Store

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

- Solution:
  - Take photos of items
  - Import photos into Sketchup drafting program
  - Add Captions
  - Export high resolution files
  - Have AfterShock Graphics in Fairbury print larger 24x30 very nice posters with captions

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House



Thomas F. Googerty designed the entrance gates to the Pontiac Southside Cemetery that are still in service in 2025.

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

Portrait painting is of Thomas F. Googerty as an older man painted by his long time friend, Dr. Thomas Lockie.
Logo in the center of the fireplace is the stamp mark that Googerty used to mark items he made.

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

Thomas Googerty Room in Strevell House

New Cover for Yost Fish Holding Tank

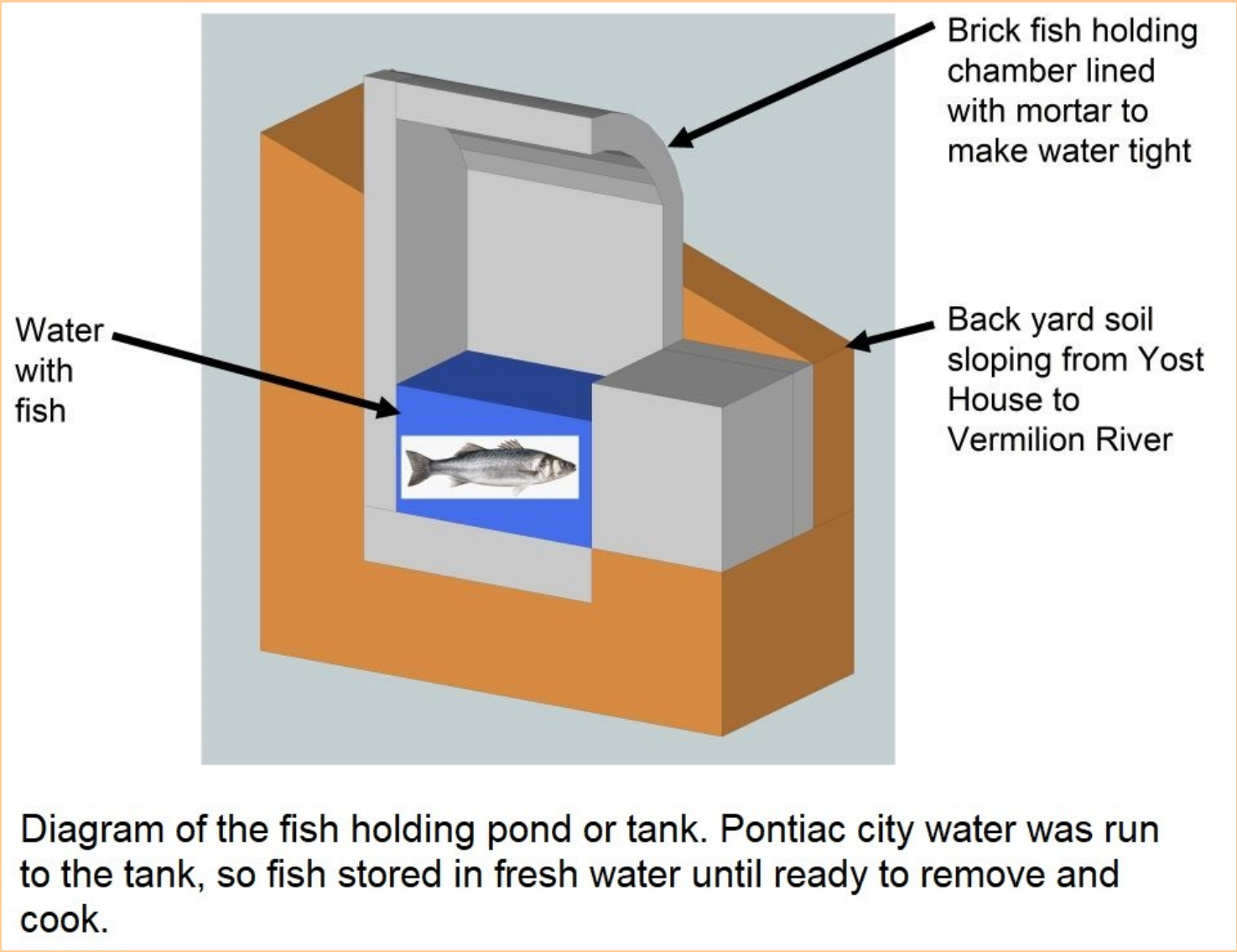

Brick fish holding chamber lined with mortar to make water tight
Water with fish
Back yard soil sloping from Yost House to Vermilion River

Diagram of the fish holding pond or tank. Pontiac city water was run to the tank, so fish stored in fresh water until ready to remove and cook.

Fresh water also removes “River Smell” from fish

New Cover for Yost Fish Holding Tank

Old cover was plain pine, which rotted away pretty quickly. New cover made of pressure-treated wood which should last much longer.

New Cover for Yost Fish Holding Tank

New Cover for Yost Fish Holding Tank

New pressure-treated cover in my Fairbury shop. 1x8 and 2x4 pressure-treated lumber from Fairbury RP Lumber. 2" deck screws

New Cover for Yost Fish Holding Tank

Made template for letter Y for Yost House from thin plywood, using paper printout from Sketchup drafting program. White paint and red letter paint from Nussbaum Ace Hardware in Fairbury.

- Could not resist temptation to “Gussy Up” the new cover!

New Cover for Yost Fish Holding Tank

Traced Y letter with pencil, then painted red Y using small 1/2" wide brush.

Strevell House Red Paint for nice contrast to White background

New Cover for Yost Fish Holding Tank

New cover installed Aug 2, 2025.

Should make fisherman and people on the Vermilion River ask, “What the heck is that Y for??”

New Cover for Yost Fish Holding Tank

Used right angle bracket and 2 hose clamps from Fairbury Ace to retain the new cover in place. Can be removed using a screwdriver.

Marsh Park – August 2025

- Park on West Side of Fairbury
- Completely refurbished in 2017…..8 Years ago
- As of 2024, everything repainted except……
  - Outside of large screened-in Pavilion
  - Bandstand

- So repainted those 2 items in 2025
- Whole park back to “like new” condition

Marsh Park – August 2025

Since 2017 refurbishment, pavilion booked every weekend every summer

Marsh Park – August 2025

Veterans Memorial Park – August 2025 Fairbury

- **Gazebo built 1997**
  - 28 years old
  - Cedar roof life expectancy is 30 years
  - 2 shingles missing on east side
  - “Hole in the roof”
  - $180 for bundle cedar shingles…only need 2

Veterans Memorial Park – August 2025

"Dog Eared Picket" usually used to make a cedar fence. Made 2 new Cedar shingles for the Gazebo.

Veterans Memorial Park – August 2025
Fairbury

Used bandsaw to make new 24 inch long Cedar shingles for the Gazebo. The black plastic kept the board at 90 degrees to the bandsaw table. Shingles are 3/8" thick on 1 end then taper to 0 inches at 24 inches length.

Veterans Memorial Park – August 2025

2 new Cedar Shingles installed and roof repaired on Aug 21, 2025.

Jones House – August/September 2025

Column still Ok

Jones House – August/September 2025

Jones House – August/September 2025

Summer 2026 Projects

- Fairbury Marsh Park – Nothing yet on schedule
- Fairbury North Park – Paint South Wall Exterior Screened in Pavilion
- Cropsey – Install historic Murals in new park ?
- Jones House – Tuck-pointing both chimneys
- Strevell House – Landscape around Albert Cashier sign

The End

Questions?